POL 23-9 GREECE

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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1967 APR 21 PM 8 21

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[redacted]

2. MARTIAL LAW RESTRICTIONS WERE GRDUALLY BEING EASED THROUGHOUT GREECE TONIGHT AFTER MILITARY DICTATORSHIP WAS SET UP UNDER THE "NATIONAL GOVERNMENT" OF SIXTY-SIX YEAR OLD SUPREME COURT PROSECUTOR CONSTANTINE KILLIAS.

3. NEW GOVERNMENT WAS SWORN IN AT 7 P.M. TONIGHT AT ATHENS ROYAL PALACE BY GREECES PRIMATE ARCHBISHOP CHRYSOSTOMOS, AND ACCORDING ATHENS RADIO IN THE PRESENCE OF KING CONSTANTINE.

4. NEW GOVERNMENT SO FAR COMPOSED OF CONSTANTINE KOLLIAS AS PREMIER, LT. GENERAL GREGORIOS SPANDIDAKIS, THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, AS VICE PREMIER AND DEFENSE MINISTER, ARTILLERY COLONEL NIKOLAOS MAKAREZOS AS MINISTER OF ECONOMIC COORDINATION, BRIGADIER STYLIANOS PATAKOS AS INTERIOR MINISTER AND ARTILLERY COLONEL GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS AS MINISTER IN CHARGE OF PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE.

5. IN PROCLAMATION TO PEOPLE TONIGHT PREMIER KOLLIAS ADMITTED THAT MILITARY TAKE OVER "CERTAINLY IS A DEVIATION FROM THE CONSTITUTION" BUT IT IS A "DEVIATION FOR THE SALVATION OF THE COUNTRY, WHICH IS THE SUPREME LAW". [redacted]

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6. HE SAID "THE ELECTIONS" THAT HAVE BEEN PROCLAIMED COULD NOT HAVE PROVIDED A SOLUTION TO IMPASSE. WHATEVER OUTCOME, IT WAS CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO BLOOD-SHED AND CHAOS. THIS IS WHY ARMY STEPPED IN, JUST ONE STEP SHORT OF THE ABYSS.

7. THE PREMIER SAID FEW "ARSONISTS" AND PROFESSIONAL ANARCHISTS WO HAD LEAD NATION TO THIS ABYSS WOULD BE "ISOLATED". "THE REST OF US CAN GO AHEAD UNITED FOR A RADICAL CHANGE LEADING TO PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS, AND GET RID OF ROTTENNESS THAT HAD PREVAILED," HE ADDED.

8. BASIC TASK OF HIS GOVERNMENT, WHICH BELONGS TO NO POLITICAL PARTY NOR TO ECONOMIC OBLIGARCHY, WAS TO RESTORE SOCIAL JUSTICE SO THAT NATION SHOULD RETURN IN TIME TO ORTHODOX PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY "NOT THE DEMOCRACY OF RABBLE".

9. HE WARNED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS DETERMINED TO STAMP OUT ALTARPPOSITION OT HIS GOVERNMENTS NATIONAL MISSION FROM WHATEVER SOURCE." "TRUE FREEDOM" EXISTS WHERE THERE IS RULE OF LAW". HE ENDED UP BY SAYING "LONG PRVE THE NATION, LONG LIVE THE KING, LONG LIVE GREECE."

10. ANOTHER GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT SAID MILITARY TAKE-OVER HAD BEEN "HAILED BY WHOLE GREEK PEOPLE WITH ENTHUSIASM AND RELIEF." ALL PROVINCIAL ARMY COMMANDERS HAD REPORTED ABSOLUTE ORDER AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

11. AT 9 P.M. TONIGHT CITY TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS IN ATHENS WERE RESTORED BUT THERE WERE NO LINKS WITH ABROAD (NOW ANNOUNCED FOR 0700).

12. NOTHING WAS LEARNED OF FATE OF GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS AND OFFICIALS WHO WERE ARRESTED AT THE OUTSET OF COUP. BUT HERE WERE REPORTS THAT SOME OF THEM WOULD BE RELEASED TONIGHT.

13. POSITION OF KING CONSTANTINE IN THIS CHANGE IS STILL UNCERTAIN. IT WAS NOT CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD IN FACT SIGNED ROYAL DECREE ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

14. TONIGHT ATHENS ARMED FORCES RADIO BROADCAST THE NEW GOVERNMENTS LONG-TERM POLICY STATEMENTS WHICH REAFFIRM GREECES ADHERENCE TO UNITED NATIONS, PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND PEACE, HER INTENTION TO FUFILL OBLIGATIONS TO NATO

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AND WESTERN ALLIES DEMANDING AT SAME TIME ALL HER RIGHTS ON "EQUAL TERMS", AND RESERVING RIGHT TO DEVELOP HER RELATIONS WITH ALL OTHER COUNTRIES.

15. ON CYPRUS IT SAID GOVERNMENT PLANS TO LEAD THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACEFUL MEANS GREAT CYPRUS ISSUE TO A HAPPY SOLUTION -- UNION OF CYPRUS WITH GREECE, WITHOUT HOWEVER DISREGARDING RIGHTS OF MINORITY.

16. GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSED TO REINFORCE NATIONAL DEFENSE, PURGE STATE MACHINERY, RESTORE INTERNAL ORDER AND SECURITY, ENFORCE SOCIAL JUSTICE, FULFILL OBLIGATIONS TO COMMON MARKET, ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, AND RESTORE GREEK PRESS TO "ITS NATIONAL MISSION. BUT IT ADDED, GOVERNMENT GAVE PRIORITY 1 TO EDUCATION AND YOUTH. TALBOT

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